

# The Child Labor Situation in the Commercial and Construction Sectors in Bangladesh

**Dr. A. H. M. Zehadul Karim**

MA (Dhaka), MA (Syracuse), PhD (Syracuse, USA)  
Cert. in South Asian Studies (USA)

**Professor** (Sought Early Retirement on my own)

**Department of Anthropology**

**University of Rajshahi**

**Rajshahi 6205**

**Bangladesh**

Presently working at:

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

**International Islamic University Malaysia**

**Gombak, Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia 53100**

**Contact**

[ahmzkarim@yahoo.com](mailto:ahmzkarim@yahoo.com)

**0088-01711-301335 (Bangladesh)**

**0060-163907940 (Malaysia)**

A project sponsored by:

**University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh**  
**Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

June 2012

## **Preface and Acknowledgement**

The research reported here provides a brief study on child labor situation in the commercial and construction sectors of Rajshahi and Bogra cities, and their surrounding areas in the northern part of Bangladesh. The research is formally sponsored by the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, for which, I am grateful to them. This project would not have been completed unless it was not properly monitored by the Research, Support and Publications Section of the UGC. As a matter of fact, I failed to submit the report in due time, because of the reason that the data collected for this research earlier were lost in bundles during the time of my departure from Comilla University; and these were never found again. For that reason, I had to re-survey the children with a new set of questionnaire during the early months of 2010. Although at present the research fully relies on quantitative information, but it will be further elaborated through supplementing some additional qualitative information which are already available to us.

Due to my over-involvement in teaching and research at the International Islamic University Malaysia, it was not possible for me to go in details about the write-up at this time. But I am quite confident that this study will take a final shape by detailing the qualitative data in future. At this time, I have submitted this report just to fulfill the formal requirement of the UGC; yet, I am quite confident that the students and researchers will certainly find it useful for them, as it contains a huge amount of quantitative information relating to child labor situation in the commercial sector in Bangladesh.

I should also say a few words as part of my acknowledgement, regarding my student-researchers who were directly involved in the project as field enumerators, tabulators and research assistants. Md. Asadul Haque and Md. Ershad Hossain acted as research assistants of this project, guiding the whole research at the field level. I express my sincere gratitude to them, as they are really efficient in gathering and supervising the field research.

My colleagues in the Department of Anthropology at Rajshahi University helped me in different ways. There is no word which adequately can express my feelings for them as they were much supportive to me in the department, where I started learning and teaching anthropology of Bangladesh. I also wish to thank Mr. Ahsan Alamgeer a staff member of Social Science Faculty for his ungrudging computer assistance. Mr. Azizul Zulkifley of the IIUM, Malaysia, helped me to organize the tables. I greatly appreciate his sincere assistance and cooperation.

Finally, I would like to express my profound feelings for the students of anthropology at Rajshahi University who happens to be my instigative-source of academic endeavor.

Dr. A. H. M. Zehadul Karim  
 MA (Dhaka), MA (Syracuse), PhD (Syracuse, USA)  
 Cert. in South Asian Studies (USA)  
 Professor (Retired)  
 Department of Anthropology  
 University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi. BANGLADESH.  
 (Presently working as a Faculty Member at the IIUM, Malaysia)  
 Department of Sociology and Anthropology.  
 International Islamic University Malaysia. MALAYSIA.

June, 2012.

## **Contents**

<b>Preface and Acknowledgement</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 1 Introducing the Present Study</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Research Background	4
1.2 Child Labor: The Concept and Clarification	6
1.3 Objectives of the Study	8
<b>Chapter 2 Methodological Clarification</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Study Area and Methodology	9
2.2 Methods and Techniques Adopted in Data Collection	9
2.3 Sampling Technique and Survey Adopted	10
Chart 1: Specific Survey Activities of the Whole Survey Process	11
<b>Chapter 3 Major Findings of the Study</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 Major Findings Based on Survey	12
3.2 Age Education	12
3.3 Income of the Children	15
3.4 Information on Children's Parents income	16
3.5 Residential Status of the Respondents	18
3.6 Family Heads and Their Types	18
3.7 Extra Benefits beyond Salary	19
3.8 Reasons for Working as Child Labor	21
<b>Chapter 4 Analytical Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>References Cited</b>	<b>24</b>

## Chapter 1

### Introducing the Present Study

#### 1.1 Research Background

The participation of under-aged children as child labor in multifarious work-activities is a widespread phenomena throughout the world. Although, child labor is legally restricted in many countries of the world, yet the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimated that there were about 40 million children below 15 years of age who were engaged in paid employment in 1985; and in spite of repeated penalties declared by many nations, the number still remained at 34 million until 1988 (see Jomo 1992). A recent ILO survey indicated that 73 million world's children are employed as an equivalent to 13 per cent of those aged 10 to 14 is another example of this issue (see ILO 1996). As we come to accept the fact that there are millions of under-aged children who are employed as potential labor-force throughout the world, the imposition of laws could not however, control the family employment when people find it an easy means to circumvent the regulations. It is therefore quite likely that the participation of the children from the low income families in both domestic and non-domestic sectors of production will continue to increase in future. And there is no doubt that this sort of patronization of child labor must have some detrimental effect on their schooling and of children's future socialization process.

In identifying the main causes of educational wastage in India, it emerged from a research (see Rawat and Goyal 1975) that 65 per cent of the children are

withdrawn from schools long before they could complete their elementary courses only because that they work either at home or in their family farm especially after nine years. A similar pattern has also been observed in Bangladesh when the main reasons of children's drop-out in primary education were identified in the fact that their parents and guardians were unable to bear their educational expenses in schools (for details see Karim (1995). And the research further confirmed that instead of sending them to schools, the parents send their children either to earn their family subsistence or get them employed in multifarious works with their parents.

In peninsular Malaysia, we can apparently say that children's employment in the labor-force has appreciably been declined due to its rapid expansion of elementary education and the promotion of schooling facilities. Although there is a declining trend in child-employment in Malaysia, but it has not been totally eradicated as yet. In Turkey, a 1989 study indicated that 60 per cent of the workers involved in cotton cultivation were either 20 years old or younger in them (see Unicef 1997). The same study (see Unicef 1997) further reported that children are found to comprise one-fourth of all agricultural workers in Kenya.

Whatever may be the situation, it is quite acceptable that the main reason for child employment in many parts of the world lies with the fact that most of the poor families in these countries are economically dependent on them. This is evident when Karim (1995) found that the drop-out of children from schools is

one of the important reasons for child labor in Bangladesh. As these families urgently need their economic support, they become reluctant to go to schools. In spite of signing a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturer Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Unicef and ILO offices in Bangladesh in 1995. It is suspected that a large number of the children still work in the manufacturing and construction sectors in different parts of the country. The children are also found to work in other sectors, as well. We assume that their poverty-level compel them to do so.

The above discussion clearly suggests that the employment aspect of under-aged children has still remained to be an important issue in Bangladesh. And accordingly for that reason, this proposed research is an initiative to generate data on the child labor in Bangladesh by especially identifying them from the commercial and construction sectors of the country.

## **1.2 Child Labor: The Concept and Clarification**

The concept 'child labor' conjures up a particular image: we see children are chained to a rigorous work for their own economic survivability. They perform a variety of work in widely divergent conditions. A decade ago, Unicef determined that child labor is exploitative if it involves full time work at too early an age; and also if it exerts excessive physical, social or psychological stresses (see Unicef 1986). A 1977 survey in Dhaka city indicated that about 52 per cent child-laborers work seven to nine hours workday and about 25 per cent work a ten to twelve

hours workday (see Unicef 1987). Such statistics are simply the manifestation of the pervasive impact of poverty in Bangladesh.

Age limit for the child labor is a formal reflection of society's judgment about the children's involvement in work. In almost all the countries, age-set is determined by formally restricting the children to work. The legal minimum age for all work in Egypt is 12, in the Philippines, it is 14 and in Hong Kong it has been fixed to age 15. Many countries are found to set the distinction of ages by separating them between light and hazardous work where, age 12 has been set for light-work and, age 16 to 18 has been set for hazardous work (see Bequele and Joe Boyden 1998). Nevertheless, ILO establishes a general minimum age of 15 years completing a compulsory schooling. Hence, a cut-off point of this age (i.e., age 15) may be regarded as an age limit to restrict child labor in many countries of the world. In Bangladesh, the minimum age for completing a primary education is 10, and it requires another three years to complete the middle schooling. So accordingly, age 15 may be identified for restricting the child work in Bangladesh. The situation of child labor deserves more organized and systematic study in Bangladesh. There is shortage of available information on this issue, this proposed research in an attempt to conceptualize child labor situation in Bangladesh.



### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The principal objectives of this study are designed to explore the child labor situation in the commercial and construction sectors in Bangladesh. More specifically, the objectives of the research are as follows:

- (a) Firstly, the main purpose of this research is to identify the under-aged children working in the commercial and construction sectors in Bangladesh.
- (b) The research aims at examining the socio-economic background of the children working as 'child labor' in the country. This will provide us with a real economic situation of these families. And in this context, the research has identified the factors that contributed their employment.
- (c) The research also examined the work-place environment of the children and explores to assess their working history.
- (d) The study is also designed to know the type of works the children are involved with and the rate of wages they are paid up for their services. In this regard, an age-grade differentiation in the wage structure has also been dealt with a clear investigation.
- (e) The research will also identify the factors that contributed for their employment as child labor.
- (f) And finally, the research will examine the existing child labor laws and would recommend some measures towards improving the legal aspects of child labor in Bangladesh.

## Chapter 2

### Methodological Clarification

#### 2.1 Study Area and Methodology

As indicated, this present research has been conducted in both the commercial and construction sectors of Rajshahi and Bogra city areas in the north-western part of Bangladesh. The main rationale for selecting these two areas of the country lies in the fact that both Rajshahi and Bogra represent two important urban locations having greater access to many important institutions with exposure to business and commerce. Rajshahi is the Divisional headquarter of northern region and Bogra is reputed to be the location of a few important industries and factories of northern Bangladesh.

#### 2.2 Methods and Techniques Adopted in Data Collection

As part of the study plan, the research collected data from 500 sample children, taking 250 each, from Rajshahi and Bogra regions. It may be noted here that those sample were made available from different business organizations and commercial plants located in two above-mentioned cities.

The research is absolutely based on survey and accordingly, a pre-designed questionnaire was formulated to make a pre-testing at the field level. After careful checking, an all-inclusive questionnaire was finalized for extensive interviews of a total 500 children. The pre-testing was done by the principal researcher and a total of six enumerators employed in this project were trained extensively under

the leadership of two MSS students graduated in Anthropology at Rajshahi University with their strong academic background.

As a matter of fact, it is often difficult to find out the working children for interviews, as 'child labor' is now a very sensitive issue. Each and every one in the areas is very much aware about the restrictions imposed on it, by the Government and other international organizations dealing with child employment. However, our researchers were very much tactful in finding out the working children as they are quite visible to be found working in various organizations. People in the surrounding areas have all information about these children and it is not very difficult to identify and trace them at work places.

### **2.3 Sampling Technique and Survey Adopted**

As mentioned, the respondents in this research have been identified absolutely based on convenience random sample depending on the availability of the children in the surrounding study locale. As evidenced, a total of 500 children were chosen; of whom 250 were found in Rajshahi area, and the remaining 250 were taken from Bogra. The positive aspect of the research is that it included a huge number of children in its sample-number. Apart from the survey data, two research assistants also gathered enormous of the information through their informal interviews and conversation with the local people. Alongside of this, a few stakeholders in the rank of management officials were also interviewed with a set small questionnaire containing a number of check-list.

### Chart 1

#### Specific Survey Activities Conducted in the Whole Survey Process

Research Activities	Work Coverage
Child Survey	Interview of 500 children, as available in different commercial and construction sectors of Rajshahi and Bogra
Interviews of the Employers and Managerial Personnel	A total of 10 persons
Rapport building and Informal conversation	Around 20 people in the area
The Case Studies	Two cases each, from two study areas

Data Checking: To ensure the quality of information, all data collected by the enumerators were rechecked and verified by two research assistants employed in the project.

## Chapter 3

### Major Findings Based on Survey

This chapter describes the major findings of the research as evidenced in the survey showing the pattern of working environment in which the children are working and the type of work they perform as child-workers. We also provide here with the socio-economic and cultural background of the children as these are essentially relevant here for making a proper assessment of the whole situation of child labor in the study areas.

#### 3.1. Age and Education

Age and education are two important variables as they have significant correlation in professionalizing the child labor situation. It also simultaneously tells us about the age at which the children usually enter into the paid employment. It further reflects about the criticality of the situation when the children are withdrawn from their schools to get involved in their work-activities. Based on the survey, the age data thus have been ranged from 7 to 17 years, where the majority of the children are found to agglomerate in between the age of 13 to 15 years. It shows clearly that out of 500 children in Rajshahi and Bogra, a total of 291 (58.2%) make their placement specifically in that category. But it is very much inquisitive to know that a very significant number of children (i.e., 149 or 29.8%) are the child-workers who started their working profession at an age of 7 through 12

years of age. (see Table 1 for details). This is very much alarming to make the situation vexed in further deterioration.

To learn about the educational background of the children, we have classified the respondents only in two broad categories showing their pattern of accessibility to education. There is a clear indication in the table (see Table 1) that the majority of the children is 'non-lettered' and did not have any chance to go to schools. This is evidenced when we find that a total of 261 (52.2%) children are fully incapable in reading and writing. This is perhaps because of their economic hardship which they face in their families.

**Table 1: Age, Education and the Pattern of Occupation of Children**

Social Status	Number of Children Responded					
	Rajshahi (N=250)		Bogra (N=250)		Total (N=500)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Age Group</b>						
07 to 09 years	14	5.60	6	2.40	20	4.0
10 to 12 years	74	29.60	55	22.0	129	25.80
13 to 15 years	131	52.40	160	64.0	291	58.20
16 to 17 years	31	12.40	29	11.60	60	12.60
<b>Educational Background</b>						
Can sign their names only	130	52.0	141	56.40	271	54.20
Can read and write	120	48.0	109	43.60	229	45.80

Table 1 (contd.)

Social Status	Number of Children Responded					
	Rajshahi (N=250)		Bogra (N=250)		Total (N=500)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>The Pattern of Works the Children are Involved with</b>						
1) Welding helper	98	39.20	47	22.80	145	29.0
2) Motor mechanic helpers	42	16.80	16	6.40	58	11.60
3) Restaurant attendants as table-boy and kitchen works	38	15.20	60	24.0	98	19.60
4) Working as carpenter's helper, transport laborer working in CNG fuel station	14	5.60	23	9.20	37	7.40
5) Shop assistants, helper to a painter; bicycle mechanic, book binder etc.	19	7.60	18	7.20	37	7.40
6) Working in the engineering, workshops as helper to the mechanics	14	5.60	57	22.80	71	14.20
7) Construction workers	25	10.0	29	11.60	54	10.80

A satisfactory analysis of occupational pattern is shown in Table 1 providing information about the type of works the children are performing in various work plants. It has been found that the under-aged children enter many work-activities as apprentice at the initial stage assisting their seniors. And for obvious reason, they do not usually make any choice of their profession rather they prefer to find out any type of job available to them. They work as welding helpers, motor mechanic helpers, restaurant and hotel attendants, shop assistants and also often work in the engineering firms. Many of them also work in the construction firms as well (see Table 1 for details).

### 3.2 Income of the Children

The children however, do not belong to any homogenous income-group; rather their earning is quite diversified. While entering the profession as apprentice, the children are allowed to receive any money for their services. After a few months, they are paid their salary which initially starts from Taka 500 a month. And the next phase of the earning begins from Taka 501 to 1500.

**Table 2: Monthly Income of the Children**

Income Status	Number of Children Responded					
	Rajshahi (N=250)		Bogra (N=250)		Total (N=500)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Non penny (For Apprentice)	6	2.40	2	0.80	8	1.60
Up to Tk 500	60	24.00	38	15.20	98	19.60
Tk. 501 – 1500	152	68.80	162	64.80	314	62.80
Tk. 1501 – 3000	32	12.80	48	19.20	80	16.00



It is evident from the table that with gaining of experiences, the income-range of the children also goes up. But it has been observed that the great majority of the children actually make an income between Tk. 500 to 1500 which seem to be quite bare minimum as compared to their services. A few experienced children however, have been services between Tk. 1501 and 3000 a month which is more or less acceptable.

### **3.3 Information on Children's parents income**

We provide here some information on children's parents income as it relates to the total family expenditure which is the reflective of the economic standing of a family. The income of the parents of surveyed children gives us a meaningful analysis in this research. We have broadly categorized the parents' income into four groups with an earmark of their economic status. These are: 'parents having no income at all' living below extreme poverty level, earner of less than taka 2000 a month, who have been identified as low-income group; those parents whose earning falls within a range of taka 2001 and 5000 are identified as the middle-income group. And lastly, the earners of taka 5000 and above are termed as reasonably moderate income category. This grouping has been done keeping pace with the national average and income situation of the people in Bangladesh.

From our data, it has been found that a total of 31 (6.2%) parents do not have any income at all which seems to be quite logical that they are compelled to send their children for family subsistence. There are 83 (16.6%) parents whose income falls in the lowest income. But it is interesting to note that a preponderant

majority of the parents (i.e., 253 or 50.6%) belong to the middle income category. But as many as 133 (26.6%) parents earn more than taka 5000 a month which has been regarded as reasonably moderate income grouping. The logical question comes to our mind having such situation why these parents are sending their children to work outside. We assume that they have big families containing too many children which become an economic burden for the whole family by squeezing the earning divided among many members.

**Table 3: Information on Parents' Income of the Working Children**

Monthly Income and Income Status of the Parents	Number of Children Responded					
	Rajshahi (N=250)		Bogra (N=250)		Total (N=500)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
No Income at all (Extremely below poverty level)	18	7.20	13	5.20	31	6.20
Less than Taka 2000 (low income category with poverty level)	37	14.80	46	18.40	83	16.60
Come ranging from taka 2001 to 5000 (Middle income category)	129	51.60	124	49.60	253	50.60
Earning of taka 5001 or above	66	26.40	67	26.80	133	26.60

### **3.4 Residential Status of the Respondents**

Most of the children identified in this research are coming from the city areas or its surrounding locations. Out of a total 500 sample children identified from Rajshahi and Bogra cities, 367 (73.4%) have been staying in their respective city locations. The remaining 133 (26.6%) children came from other areas and nearby villages. This situation is not however the same in the case other research conducted in Dhaka city (e.g., Karim 2005).

### **3.5 Family Heads and Their Types**

Being a patriarchal society, the male individual of the family remains to be the dominant person as head of the household and also they are the principal earner. But due several factors, a few female-headed households are also found to be existed which become socially disadvantageous in terms of economic survival. Among the 500 children, 41 (8.2%) children have been identified from these families which are headed by women. Being women-head, it often becomes difficult for them to go for any employment outside house. And for that reason, they are to depend in the children to subsist their families. Working Environment and working hours of the children. With the above background information about the working children, we now turn back to the working environment and working hours of the children.

If we look at the occupational data, we clearly find that the children perform many hazardous type of work which put them in a vulnerable situation in terms of their physical danger and health. Many of the children work for ten to twelve

hours a day and do not even do not eat their proper meals for the whole day. A continuous starvation makes them dizzy and eventually decreases the tolerance level of the body from bio-physical point of view.

After working for eight to ten hours on an average, the children usually get a break for one day in a week. This is however true for many construction farms commercial plants and business farms. But a few organizations, hotels and restaurant keep their shops open to maximize their income for the whole week. We have found a few (70 or 14%) of such children who work even work for the weekend and holiday. The children are paid the same amount of money for these holidays which they usually receive for working in regular times. But according to international laws, the holiday payment is supposed to be double of the regular salary.

### **3.6 Extra Benefits beyond Salary**

The children were asked to mention that as to what extra benefits they receive from their employers. Most of the respondents (i.e., 363 or 72.6%) mentioned that they do not receive any other facilities or privileges. A few of the respondents' (i.e., 137 or 27.4%) however, admitted that they are provided with a day time meal, as many of them, have to stay quite long working until night. We were very much specific to know as to whether the children are provided with any accommodation and/or are paid any money for medical treatment. We have found none having such privileges from their employer.

Out of a total 500 children identified in this research, 207 (41.4%) admitted that they have had faced some kind of accident and sufferings during their working time. The results of the survey indicate that most common suffering is: pains, bleeding, electric shock, and burning. Apart from this, often victims feel pain in the abdomen, muscle and other organs of the body which occurs due to their over-work and hard labor. A total of 113 (54.33%) children had such problems in the form of pain, while 60 (20.85%) had some sort of injury causing bleeding in different organs. A few children (21 or 10.10%) faced some electric shock at the time of their works which indicates that the children often perform many hazardous works.

**Table 4: Type of Accidents and Sufferings Faced by the Children**

Type of Accident/Suffering	Number of Children Responded					
	Rajshahi (N=250)		Bogra (N=250)		Total (N=500)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
Pain	39	36.45	74	73.27	113	22.60
Bleeding	39	36.45	21	20.79	60	12.00
Electric Shock	16	14.95	5	4.95	21	4.20
Burning	8	7.48	- -	- -	8	1.60
Others	5	4.67	1	0.99	6	1.20

Note: Multiple responses considered.

While the children perform many types of hazardous and laborious work, it is quite obvious that they will certainly face some kind of accidents and injuries. But many of such children do not receive any compensation for their accidents. Based on our evidences, we find that out of 208 victims, 91 (43.75%) admitted to having received some compensation from their employer, and remain 117 (56.25%) were not given any compensation.

### **3.7 Reasons for Working as Child Labor**

It is very much essential to know the reasons of child labor and accordingly, we put this question directly to the working children as to why they are going for work at this early stage. Three major important reasons are expressed by the children. A preponderant majority of them (i.e., 350 or 70%) identified poverty as the main reason which compelled the children to go for working at this stage. A sizeable number of children (i.e., 81 or 16.2%) however expressed that they were reluctant to go to schools. Among the remaining children, 55 (11%) mentioned that they had started to work because of the reason that it helps them learn the technicalities of their professions at an early age. A very small segment of the children (i.e., 14 or 2.8%) have identified a few peculiar factors for which they preferred working at this early age. Among those listed factors, we found that a few children became annoyed with their parents; some are overwhelmed to earn some money.

**Table 5: Reasons for Accepting Child Labor**

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Number of Children Responded</b>					
	<b>Rajshahi (N=250)</b>		<b>Bogra (N=250)</b>		<b>Total (N=500)</b>	
	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
Poverty	162	64.80	188	75.20	350	70.00
Reluctant to go to schools	53	21.20	28	11.20	81	16.20
Acquainted with the work	25	10.00	30	12.00	55	11.00
Other reasons	10	4.00	4	1.60	14	2.80

## Chapter 4

### Analytical Conclusions and Recommendations

In the foregoing chapters, we have documented a situational description of the child labor, based on our field-data gathered from two cities named Rajshahi and Bogra located in the northwestern part of Bangladesh. A total of 500 children were identified by employing the convenience random sample, having an equal representation of 250 each, from two study areas. It is apparently reflected from our data that there is no major differentiation in the pattern of child labor in these two cities, rather the features in both these places remains to be almost similar.

In the city areas, the children are sent to work, often being compelled by their family members, because of having tremendous socio-economic pressures and economic crisis. Many children come out of their houses for work at an early stage of their life and we have information that a few of them even, begin their works at the age of seven. At the initial stage, they start as an apprentice, but as time passes on and as they grow older, they gain expertise to become professionals. As the children enter their profession at an early stage, so it is quite likely for them to remain out schools being fully illiterate. And it has been proved when we find that the great majority of the children simply can sign their names which they have been taught in that way, and others however, can read and write. Thus there is an indication that the children who can read and write, must have gone to schools to begin early courses, but they somehow had to abandon this idea later due to financial crisis. Being discontinued from their studies, they start as child-labor performing their different work-activities in multifarious work-plants. In



these work-plants, they get involved in a wide variety of activities such as welding helpers, motor mechanic helpers, restaurant attendants and so on. Whatever may be the occupation, each and every aspect of it, is full of risk and hazard.

In these work-places, the children perform very laborious jobs and works usually for more than ten hours a day and often remain without food for the whole day. Although a few children are found to be provided with a day-meal, but their diet in this context, is very frugal, comprising only one item. It therefore keeps them unhealthy, and as a consequence many children suffer from malnutrition. While performing various types of laborious and risky jobs, they often face accidents and suffer from serious injuries. Most of the victim children as such do not receive any money for their treatment. Instead, they fail to continue in their works, which eventually put them in trouble. They are laid-off from their jobs without paying any legal compensation. The management immediately goes for new replacement as many hungry mouths are already on the queue for searching their jobs.

### References Cited

- Boyden, Joe, B. Ling and W Myers  
1998           *What Works for Working Children*. Florence: UNICEF and Radda Barnen.
- ILO (International Labor organization)  
1996           *Child Labor: What is to be done?* Geneva.
- Jomo, K.S.  
1992           *Child Labor in Malaysia*. Kuala Lumpur: Forum for Labor Studies Program and Institute for Advanced Studies.
- Karim, A.H.M.Zehadul  
1995           A Tracer Study on Compulsory Primary Education in Bangladesh. Rajshahi: UNICEF.
- UNICEF  
1996           *Sate of the World Children*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 1987           *Analysis of the Situation of Children in Bangladesh*. Dhaka: UNICEF.